

March 11, 2016

City Council;

Since we did not have a meeting this week, I updated the Council memo sent on March 4th with additional information.

Highlights include:

- High Speed Internet
- Ocean View Avenue wires
- Middle Avenue house
- Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center
- Princess Anne Road speed study

Also, it is tournament time in Norfolk! The Mid-Eastern Basketball tournament is in full swing at the Scope this week. The City hosted the annual College Fair for more than 500 Norfolk public high school students Wednesday. The students interacted with admissions officers from the 13 MEAC schools, several city departments and military branches. Most of the seniors walked away college students!





MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Lori A. Crouch, Public Relations Manager

COPIES TO: City Clerk, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Council Interests

DATE: March 11, 2016

Animal Care and Adoption Center – The Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center (NACC) is located at 5585 Sabre Road, in the heart of an industrial area near Military Highway. 19 people currently staff the facility and there are two vacancies. Recruiting is underway for those vacancies. The building was built in 1964 and according to City records, is 2 stories tall and 13,505 square feet. The City has made significant investments in the building and site over the years to make it functional as an animal shelter. New asphalt was laid about 5 years ago in the rear of the building to ease flooding, provide parking and a driveway for staff and visitors.

The Norfolk SPCA has been a long-term tenant in the front of the building. The City currently leases the space and the property owner is responsible for maintenance to the building's roof and related space. The City's Facility Maintenance Division is responsible for other maintenance activities associated with the daily operation.

Security Procedures for City Assets in City Vehicles - General Services' staff reached out to department heads and distributed the City's policy on the appropriate use of City vehicles for official business. The policy states in City vehicles or equipment that may potentially give rise to crimes of opportunity or vandalism.

High Speed Internet – City facilities, including police and fire, are connected to the City's high speed network. It's been in place for 10 years and was done in partnership with Cox. Norfolk has fiber throughout the city, both leased and city-owned. The City currently provides free public Wi-Fi at libraries. We are expanding access to free Wi-Fi at MacArthur Square and evaluating access to free Wi-Fi at Town Point Park.

Staff is currently analyzing other city facilities to evaluate the need for high speed access. Over the next year, staff plans to work with the business community to increase the speed, capacity, low cost accessibility to businesses and partner with Norfolk Public Schools and local education institutions for low cost, improved connectivity options.



Drinking Water Reservoirs - Norfolk's water treatment process and water quality is monitored 24/7, 365 days a year. Several redundancies prevent the possibility of water contamination. Our reservoir samplings test for a range of contaminants, both regulated and unregulated. Further testing is done at the water treatment plant where an even wider range of contaminants are tested for and treated if identified.

Arts Update – Staff will provide an update on the Symphony and Opera debt and solutions moving forward at an upcoming Council meeting.

Dancing Tax People – The City Attorney's Office continues to research this issue. The information will be included in the March 18th memo.

Wires Hanging on Utility Poles - Staff contacted Cox and Verizon regarding the wires along Ocean View Avenue and throughout the city. Staff will provide both companies with a detailed list of locations on Ocean View Avenue this week and a citywide list by the end of March. Staff will ensure compliance with state code and national electrical standards.

East Beach Shopping Center Access - Public Works staff is coordinating with the contractors on a solution to improve access to businesses from both directions. Staff will also add more signs.

Parking Garage Issue – Staff has thoroughly reviewed the issue which took place following the Science Fair. There was a misunderstanding about the time the Science Fair ended. This resulted in confusion about the parking rate that caused the subsequent back up. The review of the issue found the parking supervisor on duty immediately rectified the situation once she became aware of the backup and all staff conducted themselves in a professional manner.

Parking is working on a proactive approach to resolve delays when exiting city garages. As part of the solution, parking is reviewing an upgrade to the existing cameras which would allow for real-time traffic monitoring. This opportunity would allow the parking staff to act immediately if they see an issue versus waiting on call.

Handicap Parking – Staff reviewed parking at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center. The following parking is available: 214 regular parking spaces and an additional 19 handicap parking spaces. The current amount exceeds the ADA requirement. Within the next two weeks, staff will add two more handicap parking spaces and monitor the lot over the next 45 days to determine if more spaces are needed.

Locker Rooms – The initial contract came back over the estimated cost to do the work. Another contractor is currently pricing the work and staff believes the cost estimates will come in less which will allow us to move the project forward.

Huntersville Sign Delays – Public Works sent several letters to the contractor about the slow progress of the project. The most recent letter was sent on February 26th. Staff has provided all the information the contractor needs to finish the project.

OV Boat Launch – Public Works and Recreation, Parks and Open Space staff will review potential locations and develop a list of recommendations by the end of the month.



Storm Water Fees - The General Assembly is currently reviewing some additional exemptions on the railroad right-of-way. The General Assembly passed an allowance to provide a waiver (full or partial) to properties that contain 100% of their storm water on site.

Franklin Arms Crosswalks – Public Works is reviewing the area and will have a plan by the end of the month.

Princess Anne Speeding - Public Works is conducting a speed study and expects to have the results in the next two weeks. Staff will provide the results then begin the process to analyze the data to see what solutions are needed to address any issues.

Middle Avenue House – Neighborhood Development staff met with the property owner. He was issued nuisance abatement violation due to the amount of debris on the property. A court date is scheduled for March 18th.

Since he has permits to do the work, staff is collaborating with Planning's Building Safety Division to expedite the work process. If the property owner does not indicate a time period when he can get the work done, staff will reissue a repair or demo notice which gives him a specific time period to have the work done or staff will have the property demolished.

Clean Team Update - The equipment is on order. You will receive an update during the mid-year presentation on Tuesday.

Moody's Report – Moody's recently released a report on the National Disaster Resilience Competition award for Virginia. The report specifically called out Norfolk and cited the HUD funding as a positive for the city and region. Moody's states, "the additional funding for capital investments and planning will help mitigate the negative credit effects from recurring flooding along the coast."

I hope you have a great weekend.